

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
Inventory and Monitoring Networks**

**Integrating Monitoring Results into Park
Natural Resource Management
Workshop: December 6-8, 2005**

Rio Rico, Arizona

The Intermountain Region (IMR) Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Networks are moving rapidly from monitoring plan and protocol development (for the first three networks) to implementation of vital sign monitoring. As we move into this operational phase, it is important that we carefully consider how monitoring results can most effectively support park-level resource management.

The general goal of this workshop is to gain a better understanding of how we can most effectively integrate vital signs monitoring into park management within the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service. The primary target participants are IMR Park Superintendents, NR Program Managers, and I&M Networks. Other participants will include WASO and Regional staff, and invited scientists from other agencies and Universities with experience in natural resource monitoring. At this workshop we will:

1. discuss how park managers currently use scientific and monitoring information in managing natural resources;
2. explore the information managers need to make resource-related decisions in an adaptive management context;
3. propose and discuss processes to maximize the clarity and application of and monitoring and related scientific information to park management

This workshop will result in a written summary of the proceedings. A task group will be assigned to propose a strategy with defined roles and responsibilities for an adaptive management approach to integrating vital signs monitoring results into park management and decision processes. The proposed strategy will be sent out for review and a follow-up workshop will be scheduled to consider implementation of the approved strategy in IMR networks and parks.

Day 1: How IMR Park Managers are using Monitoring Results and Scientific Information

Morning Session:

8:00 – 8:30: Welcome and Introduction (Ann Rasor, Superintendent/TUMA and TBD)

8:30 – 9:00: Workshop Overview:

Overview of IMR Networks and Workshops for FY05-06 (Bruce Bingham, I&M)

Overview of Each Day's Agenda Topics (Andy Hubbard, SODN)

Workshop Logistics and Facilitation (Nina Chambers, Sonaran Institute)

9:00 – 9:45: “Results of IMR Park Management Survey” (Andy Hubbard, SODN)

9:45 – 10:15: Open Discussion – Opportunities for improvement

10:15 – 10:30: *Break*

10:30 – 11:30: “Integration of Science and Monitoring into Park Management at Yellowstone” (Tom Olliff, YELL)

11:30 – 12:30: LUNCH (provided)

Afternoon Session:

12:30 – 1:15: “Integration of Science and Park Management” (Rob Bennetts, GRYN)

1:15 – 2:00: “Adaptive Monitoring” (Dave Busch, USGS)

2:00 – 3:00: Open Discussion – Challenges and barriers to integrating monitoring information into and park natural resources management.

3:00 – 3:15: *Break*

3:15 – 3:45: “Desired Future Conditions, Performance Management and Vital Signs Monitoring – Networks and Parks Working Together” (Lisa Thomas, SCPN)

3:45 – 4:30: Open Discussion – How I&M networks can support performance management at the park level

Evening Session: Optional

Day 2: Communicating Monitoring Results Effectively

Morning Session:

8:30 – 8:45: Summary of day 1 discussions (Led by Chambers)

8:45 – 9:30: “From Eggs to a Soufflé – A Case Study in Synthesizing Results from 10 Years of Monitoring the Marbled Murrelet” (Mark Huff, USFWS)

9:30 – 10:30: “Assessing and Communicating the Relative Condition of Ecosystems – the Integrated Assessment Network Approach” – (Todd Lookingbill, Integrated Assessment Network)

10:30 – 10:45: *Break*

10:45 – 11:30: “Analysis and Reporting on Vital Signs – Reaching Key Audiences with Monitoring Results” (Steve Fancy, WASO)

11:30 – 12:30: LUNCH (provided)

Afternoon Session:

12:30 – 12:45: Recap of Morning’s Presentations

12:45 – 1:45: Open Discussion - Communicating monitoring results to park managers

1:45 – 2:00: *Break*

2:00 – 2:45: “Vital Signs Thresholds: What are they, why are they necessary and how do we use them” (Theresa Mau-Crimmins, SODN and Steve Garman, NCPN)

2:45 – 3:30: "Ecosystem Thresholds and Policy Implications for 20 years of Air Pollution-Effects Science in Rocky Mountain NP" (Ellen Porter and Tamra Blett, ARD)

3:30 – 4:30: Open Discussion – The importance and challenges of applying thresholds

Evening Session: Optional

Day 3: Challenges, Connections and Recommendations

Morning Session:

8:30 – 8:45: Summary of Days 1 & 2 (Nina Chambers)

8:45 – 9:15: Open discussion on communication (lead by Andy Hubbard, SODN)

9:15 – 10:00: Break

10:00 – 12:00: “Challenges and Strategies in IMR Networks and Parks” (Network and Park Staffs) – Facilitated discussion by representatives from each network

12:00 -1:00: LUNCH (provided)

1:00 – 2:30: “Roles and Responsibilities in Integrating Monitoring Information and Park Management” – Facilitated discussion by key groups regarding their respective roles, including network staff, park staff, external scientists, partners, and others

2:30 – 3:00: “Conclusions and Next Steps” – Facilitated discussion to form a task group, their assignment, and scheduling a follow-up workshop on implementation

3:00-5:00: Tour of Tumacacori National Historical Park (Optional)